

The Punta Gorda Herald

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PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, OCT. 5, 1916

The railroads offer a rate of three cents a mile plus 25c. to those wishing to attend the Citrus Seminar in Gainesville Oct. 17th to 20th.

Not all the devilry done in South Florida should be charged to people from Punta Gorda. The Homestead bank robbers were not born here.

The best literary scrap books ever published were the series of McGuffey's School Readers, which were in almost general use over fifty years ago.

The Florida Chief, published at Winter Haven, has just rounded out the fifth year of its publication. It is one of the best weeklies in Florida and is edited by M. M. Lee, a writer who has few equals. May both of them live long and prosper.

Th profuse and reckless use of capital letters by Herald correspondents is objectionable. They should know that common nouns, like state, county, club company, and so on, should never begin with a capital letter unless the word is the first in a sentence.

We have not yet elected a governor to succeed Park Trammell, but we have at least two candidates in the field to succeed his successor. They are Attorney-General Thomas F. West and Commissioner of Agriculture Wm. A. McKay. By the time they open their campaign, there may be half a dozen more aspirants.

B. Vance, for nearly two years business manager of the Arcadia News, has resigned his position to become auditor in the office of the circuit clerk. He has been succeeded on the News by E. J. Weaver. The Herald extends best wishes to both gentlemen, who are well known for their ability as well as their urbanity.

The Homestead bank robbers didn't enjoy their stolen money long. In fact, it appears they didn't enjoy it at all. Two of them dead, two of them in jail and one of these two badly wounded; three men murdered on the East coast, all for \$6,500.00, of which none of the bandits now has a dollar—that's the whole story. "What fools these mortals be."

The second regiment of the Florida National Guard, which for three months has been in training camp at Black Point near Jacksonville and has been ordered to the Mexican border every week since it entered camp, is reported to have left for Laredo, Texas, Monday afternoon. The Florida soldiers are sure to capture Laredo and, if ordered to do so, would take Mexico City.

The Plant City Courier comes near being older than its accomplished and courtly editor, Wayne Thomas. He is scarcely more than 35 years old, while his excellent paper has just begun its 33rd year. The Courier is one of the cleanest papers in the state, and it has done and is still doing a vast amount of good for Plant City, Hillsborough county and the state. It deserves every good thing it gets and more besides. Long may it live and flourish!

Last Saturday, T. M. Callahan turned over the Fort Myers Press, which he has ably conducted for several years past, to Henry Ford and Charles G. Curtis experienced newspaper men from Battle Creek, Mich. Mr. Callahan does not say what his plans are, but we sincerely hope that his brilliant services will not be lost to the Florida press. Meantime we welcome his successors and wish them the greatest success.

It seems that one or more persons have aroused the wrath of Editor Leach of the Leesburg Commercial by telling lies on him, and he makes a vigorous and just "kick" about it in his last week's issue. He doesn't tell what the lies are, but the fact that they are lies is enough. We can't imagine why any one, especially a resident of Lake county, should wish to slander Leach, for he has done more than any other man in the county to put Leesburg and Lake county "on the map."

Brother Jones of the Arcadia News, accuses this editor of reflecting "by innuendo" upon the supposed unsatisfactory condition of the public roads running north from Arcadia. We plead not guilty. It was Rube Allyn that reflected upon the progressiveness of the whole county; and, in trying to enlighten him, we intimated that he may have been misled by reading Brother Jones' editorials in which he (Brother Jones) had been trying to "stir up" his constituents to greater activity in road building. We never intended to insinuate that the Dixie Highway from Arcadia to Bowling Green is not a first-class road. Brother Jones should not "imagine a vain thing."

In the write-up last week of the great public improvements being made in and around Punta Gorda, credit was given Hon. W. M. Whitten, county commissioner from this district, for his activity in promoting the building of a drawbridge across the bay from Charlotte Harbor to Punta Gorda. In this, it was not intended to slight the prime mover of this great enterprise, Hon. John Hagan, county commissioner from the Charlotte Harbor district. He and his fellow citizens, John R. Mauck, Lee Knight, E. O. Coram, T. A. Stephens and a number of other eminent citizens of the progressive village across the bay, were the first to take up the proposition, after which Commissioner Whitten joined with them cordially and materially aided in carrying through this great proposition.

"Amazing Ingratitude"

We are quite sure that the esteemed Tampa Tribune will support and is supporting for presidential elector its warm friend, Hon. Frank Harris of the Ocala Banner. The latter has criticised and continues to criticize in a fatherly manner the political conduct of the Tribune, but that able and eminent daily does not charge him with ingratitude.

But it does charge the editor of The Herald with "amazing ungratefulness" for doing the same thing that Editor Harris is doing. From the Tribune's remarks on this subject, it may clearly be deduced that its view is that, having supported a friend for office, gratitude requires that friend to forever after hold his peace and nev-

er to joke or criticize the Tribune, even in the most friendly spirit.

It was in such a spirit that The Herald joked the Tribune about its repeated failures to secure the election of candidates of its choice, and jestingly indicated the hope that the Tribune's political hoodoo would defeat its choice for governor.

Now where is there any ingratitude in that?

If Col. Stovall or Ed. Lambright will run for some big state office or for congress four years hence, The Herald editor will be given a chance to show his gratitude, which he will do by extending to his Tribune friends his most enthusiastic assistance.

A Great Desideratum

One of the greatest needs of Florida is a paper mill. Not only the newspapers, but the people need it.

Hundreds of tons of cotton and linen rags go to waste throughout the state every year because there is no market for the stuff. It is impossible to estimate the amount of this waste, but we should judge that in Punta Gorda alone more than a ton is lost every year. In DeSoto county, it is likely that it amounts to more than ten tons a year.

Taking the state as a whole and including southern Georgia, the amount of cotton and linen rags that now go utterly to waste would seem to be enough to keep a paper mill in operation at least half the year or longer. If this waste could be marketed, it would put some money in the pockets of every householder in Florida. At the same time, if we had a paper mill, it would relieve the newspaper famine with which we are now threatened. It might not be able to fully supply all the newspapers of Florida and southern Georgia, especially if its raw materials were restricted to the cotton and linen waste of that territory, but it could and would assuredly relieve the pressure on the other mills of the country and thus aid in keeping down the price of paper.

Another idea occurs in this connection and that is that there is no reason why a Florida paper mill should not make experiments and investigate the possibility of making paper from the fibre of the various plants and trees that grow so luxuriantly and extensively in Florida. At Gainesville, some years ago, beautiful writing papers were made from pine tree pulp, and it is possible that the despised saw-grass, the button wood, the mangrove, eucalyptus and other plants and trees might be found available for making certain kinds of paper.

In view of the conditions prevailing, The Herald begs to suggest that a paper mill be established in Jacksonville—in Jacksonville because it is the best distributing point in the state—and that Jacksonville donate a site for it and exempt it from municipal taxation for ten years; that a corporation be formed for establishing the mill; that the capital stock be \$100,000.00 in shares of \$100.00 each; that every newspaper in Florida and southern Georgia take at least one share; that the capitalists of Jacksonville should supplement any deficiency short of \$50,000.00 in cash subscriptions to the capital stock, and that, if necessary, bonds be issued for the remaining \$50,000.00. More plainly stated, there should be fully \$50,000.00 cash capital subscribed before the corporation is organized; and, if the remaining stock is not subscribed for, bonds may be issued in its place.

The foregoing is written by way of suggestion to the Florida State Press Association, which is to meet in Jacksonville on the coming Saturday to consider this and other questions of vital interest to the newspapers of the state.

STATE PRESS COMMENT

Apalachicola Times:—Why shouldn't the unoccupied lands pay their just proportion of the taxes? Don't all speak at once.

Key West Journal:—Catts and his lawyer differ materially. While Flournoy throws flowers at the Supreme court, Catts spits at everything in sight.

Ocala Banner:—Kent Pendleton is against Catts, and now the Anti-Saloon League is against Kent. The Anti-Saloon League seems to be more for Catts than for prohibition.

It is turning the cold shoulder on the anti-Catts members.

Key West Journal:—A true Christian does not encourage religious rows. A bigot does. A real good man does not foster factionalism among the followers of the lowly Nazarene.

Ocala Star:—The faction supporting Catts has bolted the nomination of R. Fenwick Taylor and will endorse a lawyer named Fred W. Butler. Never heard of Mr. Butler before, but we are under the impression that he is on the prohibition ticket.

Lakeland Telegram:—Reports from all sections of South Florida indicate the biggest crops of vegetables ever grown in the State. Things have been rather quiet, it is true, for the past year or more, but unless all signs fail there's a good time comin', and its mighty high here.

Florida Times-Union:—Unless the voters who express their will through the primaries insist that the verdict be enforced, why pay good money to secure this expression of the popular good will? When once the people tolerate a refusal to obey the voice of the primary, would it not be better to repeal the primary law?

Ocala Banner:—Rev. S. J. Catts, who has a dream that he is the democratic nominee for governor of Florida, says that he will subscribe \$500 to establish another paper in Punta Gorda, to "run old man Jordan out of business." Money does its part to run a newspaper, but it requires brains as well, and "old man Jordan" is rich in the possession of this prerequisite.

RANDOM RAPS (Kanned)

Straw votes show which way the breath of the straw vote takes blows.

Precautions have been taken to provide against a film famine. What a relief!

If Prof. Taft is really to take the stump, it is time to mobilize the giant sequoia stumpage.

The full dinner pail must be emptied before it can be used to bail out the Republican boat.

Transylvania should be carefully distinguished from Pennsylvania. Transylvania has no Bois Penrose.

If housewives should strike for an eight hour workday and ten hours' pay there would be a revolution.

Rumania will not feel called upon to issue a scrambled or piebald book explaining why it entered the war.

In industrial disputes the rights of the public must cease to be regarded merely as an academic question.

Labor has its day and capital has many days, but there is never a moment set aside for the poor old public.

Greece has no other cheek to turn to the smiter, both cheeks now being industrially smitten by oppressing powers.

The highest praise that Republican newspapers have been able to bestow up on Knicker Hughes is that he endorsed a speech of Mr. Roosevelt.

The suffragists in convention have voted to keep up their "lobby" at Washington, and to have a million-dollar war fund, although a million dollars would buy a lot of hats, gowns, and face powder.

The statement repeatedly made by Mr. Catts and his henchmen that no gains are ever made in a recount except by Knott is disproved by the result in Dade county, where Catts made a net gain of 21 votes. As a matter of fact, in every county where a recount has been made errors for and against every candidate for Governor were found, and this fact is well known to everybody except those who willfully shut their eyes and ears to the truth.—Lakeland Telegram

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